

the apro bulletin

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THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

JUNE 1980

CE III IN CALIFORNIA

PRAVDA SLAMS ETI VISITOR BELIEVERS

BY
TOM DAY

"It is ignorance that breeds the aliens whose visitors mystify gullible people." This quaint statement concludes an article in the 2 March 1980 issue of *Pravda*.

The main argument of the article, by V. Gubarev, is as follows: The majority of mysterious lights in the sky are "optical effects." Some "optical effects" are unidentified natural events, such as ball lightning. Others are unidentified man-made phenomena, such as earth satellites and "atmospheric pollution."

Could some of the unidentified lights and objects be spaceships carrying extraterrestrials? There's no evidence of that. Such theories appear when some people "try to give serious research," like that of a group that analyzes atmospheric anomalies, "a sensationalist character." The excitable wild theories are passed along by the gullible and excitable.

Author Gubarev tells us the article was written and published in response to many requests by Soviet citizens that *Pravda* use its authority to counter an underground manuscript now circulating privately in the Soviet Union. The manuscript is not identified in enough detail for a reader to tell whether or not it is the Filex Zigel "lecture" first circulated in 1976. (See *The Apro Bulletin*, Volume 25, Number 6, December 1976; and Volume 28, Number 4, October 1979). There might be several manuscripts now circulating privately, or just one.

Whatever the stimulus, one typical response by a manuscript reader was the following request to *Pravda*. "I received some typed material...(that) claims that extraterrestrials have landed on earth...I strongly urge you to look into this question. It has to be done, so that rumors will not excite or frighten gullible people.' "

Clearly this reader firmly believes the manuscript is fiction. The request was not "I strongly urge you to look into the accuracy of the typed material." Instead, the correspondent practically ordered *Pravda* to refute the unofficial material.

Other readers too assumed that the typed material
(See *Pravda*—Page Four)

May 7, 1980 - Anderson, California

1. THE UFO APPROACH:

Mrs. Elizabeth R., a Redding business woman, was driving south on Airport Road just south of the Redding airport runway (number 34) and about one mile north of the Sacramento River. With her were her two daughters, ages 15 and 16, and another 14 year-old-girl who was temporarily staying with the family. It was a few minutes before 10 PM-PDST. This foursome regularly made this trip at this time.

Abruptly, as they turned a slight bend in the road, a huge lighted cloud seemed to be coming up out of the river, moving north toward them. The cloud covered the whole southern horizon. Mrs. R. thought "Dear God, has an atomic bomb gone off?!" She had once witnessed A-bomb tests on the Nevada desert.

It was determined later from the FAA that visibility was a clear 85 miles. A steady wind was blowing from the north at 18 knots at ground level.

2. THE UFO ENCOUNTER:

Their car "drifted" (as Mrs. R. expressed it) into the cloud. While they were probably within the cloud for only seconds, they later realized when they reached their destination - a friend's house near their own - that they had lost 30 to 40 minutes in "real time". The friend was ready for bed, and the TV carried a program that they did not expect to see until later.

None of the four have any memory yet of what might have transpired during that lost time. A typical UFO-induced time lapse and perhaps abduction must be considered a possibility.

The car seemed to be "floating" as they "came to" about 50 yards beyond where they had drifted into the cloud. The Ford Fairmont was moving smoothly in 3rd gear. A truck they had been following wasn't ahead of them anymore. Mrs. R. feels the truck driver must surely have observed the cloud as they did, but no other witnesses have been found. (Nor has there been any report of a truck missing.) There is scattered housing in the area. The airport control tower reported nothing unusual at that time.

The car radio had become momentarily silent but resumed music without being touched. They can, in fact, recall no sounds at all during the encounter. Nor did they notice any other unusual senses except the
(See *California*—Page Two)

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CALIFORNIA

(Continued From Page One)

extremely bright light which affected their vision slightly for a day or two afterward. During their brief visit at the friend's house Mrs. R. was handed a piece of church literature to read, but she couldn't see it clearly, and bluffed reading it.

As they entered the cloud their headlights may have gone off, too. Or perhaps the brilliant light had obscured the headlights as it permeated the car and the environs.

Mrs. R. has doubts that they were ever stopped as her car doesn't start with a flowing motion in 3rd gear.

The above information was disclosed in our initial interview three days after the incident. A week later Mrs. R. recalled that they were going 30 MPH as they went into - and came out of - the cloud, and for an unknown period of time she could not see to steer due to the brightness. At this time, too, Mrs. R. was quite surprised and almost unbelieving that the cloud could have moved so deliberately INTO the strong north wind.

3. THE UFO DEPARTURE AND SUBSEQUENT INCIDENTS:

The departure was not witnessed. After "coming to" they all had a feeling of peace and calm and reverie. They turned around and drove back for about 100 yards searching in vain for "their" cloud. then they resumed their trip to the home of the friend.

They were all extremely thirsty and stopped for a few minutes to get Cokes (to go) at a resteraunt. This was not a normal part of the itinerary.

Because of her business use of her car it is necessary for Mrs. R. to maintain it well. A few days after the cloud event when she had her battery checked it was "bone" dry. Nothing else has been found unusual on the car.

One additional aspect of the UFO cloud departure needs to be mentioned. The teenager who was staying temporarily with the family "freaked-out", as Mrs. R. expresses it, after their stop for refreshments. The girl saw a wolfman-type face peering at her and became somewhat hysterical. She was upset for several days, but then resumed the aforementioned feeling of reverie.

The two daughters had similar nightmares later and independently drew similar pictures.

The three girls experienced apparent "stigmata". Or the pinpuncture and slight burn marks might have been the result of a typical UFOabduction. An MD who examined the girls and Mrs. R. found them in good health, but the marks were unusual and unexplained. Mrs. Riley's eyes still bothered her 5 days later at the time of the medical examination. The pin and burn marks were found behind the left ear of one of the girls and on the spine above the waist of another girl. In each case, two pin marks were about ¼ inch apart. They healed rapidly. Slight burns surrounded the pin marks. The third girl had a burn mark on her arm; no pin marks.

One daughter's wristwatch was repaired a month before their cloud encounter. It kept correct time, but the morning after the incident it was upwards of an hour slow. It led to an argument about the right time to leave for school. It wasn't determined or recalled exactly how much the watch was off.

4. THE EVALUATION:

First, let's try to explain it all away. Even if we can do so only by conjecture, it remains that whatever occurred triggered a real and deep spiritual or psychic experience among the four. There are elements of their having participated in some sort of separate reality or altered state of consciousness in that time and place. The R.'s are a religiously oriented family. Could their spiritual mind-set have manifested or created their UFO event? Or might it be explained by a combination of purely physical phenomena?

Look at the map. A plume of smoke and steam rises nearly constantly from a lumber and paper mill 5 miles southeast of the airport - and directly ahead of their car during the event. Noise abatement takes aircraft landing straight in toward the north (runway 34) to the east of the town of Anderson, and over or

through that plume. Landing lights shining through that white cloud may have had an eerie effect.

The ground wind that night was from 330 (magnetic) at 18 knots. Stiff enough to stretch the steam plume low, or perhaps dissipate it some. We have been unable to determine if the steam plume even existed at that time, but it usually does.

No airliner landed after 8:30 PM but light planes MAY have landed near 10 PM. This information is presumed by the fixed base operator at Redding Municipal Airport. They don't record light plane arrival times. The airport control tower closes at 10 PM. Mrs. Riley believes she was on schedule when she passed the airport, about 9:50 PM. The control tower doesn't record all landing times, but they have no record of unusual activity such as a low or missed approach.

Landing lights coming through the plume might explain away the incident (but not the spiritual, psi, or paranormal aspects). Tracks of the Southern Pacific Railroad run past the plant that emits the steam. Their engines have oscillating head lamps which in a fog can produce hypnotic effects as they approach. It could be that a train northbound passed through the mill plume laid low by the strong wind. While the SPRR says no trains were scheduled to be in that place near 10 PM, their time records are not precise for specific stretches of track. Only one train passes that way each two hours.

After rather careful analysis of other technological, astronomical, and natural phenomenon, it is almost impossible to explain the event away thusly. Also, any hoax seems entirely out of the question because of the family standards of behavior, and because the four were engaged in conversations by the researcher(s) separately and repeatedly. Their sincerity and general consistency were impressive. All four individuals involved in the encounter exhibited strong minds of their own, and do not seem likely to have been swayed by the opinions of others.

Several things that might be mentioned developed after the event, and are activities often associated with UFO close encounters. The three teenage girls shared similar dreams (about the wolfman face and other "scary" events). There was very loud banging on the side of the R. house one night, that awoke them all. They could discover no source for the noise, nor were there any marks on the building. And, of course there was what might yet be called the stigmata pin-punctures and burns on the girls.

5. INTERIM CONCLUSION SIX WEEKS AFTER THE EVENT:

Mrs. R. believes it best to allow time to restore their memories, when they are ready to accept and understand whatever occurred during the hiatus of the encounter. About a week after the event some things about the cloud became more clear to Mrs. Riley, or she was better able to articulate. Since then their life has been normal. The poltergeist activity and

nightmares have ceased.

Mrs. R. was better able to express what transpired as the cloud covered them. The cloud rose up out of the river like a huge closed fist, and opened as a hand might. A beam of light went from right to left across the lower 2/3rds of the cloud. The light was bright white but turned to yellow, and then gave the cloud an edge of green. These lights pulsated. As the cloud opened up and rose up, it broke like a roll cloud before a thunderhead, or like a breaking wave. As this happened the bottom portion darkened. Simultaneously a bar of white light appeared across the top. All of this light was so bright that Mrs. R. could not see out of the car. She had just rounded a bend at about 30 mph. Her last recollection was of the most intense light she had ever witnessed.

Mrs. R is willing to wait for the time when more will be revealed to her. I will keep in touch and keep APRO informed when the four become aware of what went on in their lost 30 to 40 minutes, and also of any new activity.

6. ADDENDUM:

Another investigator, who prefers anonymity, was in the Redding area doing research of his own at the time APRO advised me of the R. encounter.

He accompanied me on the initial interview, but as is his mode of working behind the scene, he asked that I merely mention his name, if at all. His insight, precise questioning, and perception brought forth several factors that might have remained unrecognized.

For instance, as we were leaving, he said to one of the girls: "You were thirsty?" "Oh yes," she said, "we were all so thirsty." Until then I had not considered their stop for a coke to be out of the ordinary. This then led to the discovery of the the dry car battery, which he also asked about.

I am indebted to him for reviewing my notes and rough draft, and offering suggestions.

A further credit; APRO learned of this event via Robert Gribble of Seattle.

Case Reported by:

William M. Murphy, Sr. of Redding, California.

PLEASE?

SEND NEW AND OLD ZIP CODES WHEN FORWARDING CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

ALSO - TRY TO RENEW ON TIME - IT WILL SAVE TIME AND CONFUSION IN THE RECORDS DEPARTMENT.

PRAVDA

(Continued From Page One)

was false. The presumption is common to all the requests quoted in the article.

All these readers had faith that *Pravda* would agree with their assumption. Their faith was well placed. The newspaper of the USSR Communist Party unequivocally put down belief in extraterrestrial visitors. The scenario that *Pravda* presents is that some comrades wrote requesting "Say it isn't so." *Pravda* obliged: "It isn't so."

The article is not short. It contains more than this synopsis of its main argument shows. The interested reader will find "UFOs, Aliens? - Scientists Say No" in English on page 8 of the 2 April 1980 issue of the *Current Digest of the Soviet Press* (Volume 32, Number 9). A careful reading will reveal several statements as curious as the "ignorance breeds aliens" one quoted above.

One question raised indirectly by the article is "What is the state of UFO report investigation in the Soviet Union?" The question comes up when the author, Gubarev, quotes V. V. Migulin, a member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, to the effect that the Academy "does not have a single fact about sightings." Perhaps all reports are forwarded to the group that is studying ball lightning and other atmospheric phenomena, and V. V. Migulin is unaware of their existence. Perhaps V. V. Migulin defines "fact" so narrowly that 'M. Zekhov says he saw a metallic disk flying over Leningrad at noon.' is disallowed as a fact, just as if it were identical to the "fact" that "There was a metallic disk flying over Leningrad at noon." Another possibility is that the members of the USSR Academy of Sciences are divided over the question of extraterrestrial visits, and author Gubarev quoted a member whose belief or prejudice was right for his article's slant.

What is the state of UFO report analysis in the USSR? The article in *Pravda* raises the question, but does not answer it. What the article does is reaffirm that "officially" there is not yet any evidence of extraterrestrial visitors to earth.

'WAY BACK WHEN...

October 12, 1947 - Caseta, Mexico. Mexican troops searched the sandhills and mountains near Caseta, just across the border from Fabens, Texas, for evidence of a mysterious flaming object which residents said soared over the town and exploded in billows of smoke 10 miles away.

At least four persons reported seeing the flaming object. Many residents of Fabens and Colonia reported they heard 2 explosions, and persons driving along the

highway saw smoke billowing from the mountains at about the same time.

Some persons familiar with the area said that aerial reconnaissance probably would be necessary and that a crater large enough to be seen from the air would have resulted from an explosion as large as that described by witnesses.

April 9, 1948 - Longview, Washington. Mrs. Viola Johnson and James Pittman reported spotting three men flying without the aid of planes or parachutes. Mrs. Johnson said what she saw "looked like 3 men in dark drab flying suits flying through the air." She added that they appeared to be about 250 feet high, going about as fast "as a freight train", and had some kind of apparatus on their sides which looked like guns.

The witnesses reportedly couldn't see any propellers or motors, but heard a sound similar to an airplane motor. Other residents reported hearing plane motors about the same time and seeing 3 planes circle at high altitude.

The report was similar to one last January '48 from Chehalis, Washington, in which Mrs. Bernice Zaikowski reported seeing a flying man go "sizzling and whizzing" about 200 feet above her barn. He reportedly had big, silver wings and seemed to be working controls on his chest.

August 19, 1949 - Mojave, California. Two prospectors, Buck Fitzgerald and Mase Garney, reported that a "whizzing disc" crashed near Death Valley and that two little men jumped out and disappeared in the sand dunes.

The disc was estimated to be 24 feet in diameter and going about 300 miles per hour. The two little men looked human but were very small, "like dwarfs." The prospectors chased them over a sand dune but lost them and gave up the chase in 138 degree temperatures.

LETTERS

To the Editors of the *Bulletin*:

I hope you use this tidbit!

Thorton Page

Code SN, NASA JSC

Houston, Texas 77058

1 July 1980

COMMUNICATIONS WITH IRAN

Today in Houston, of all places, I received the following TELEX, which looks like it came from Japan, but turns out, in the last line, to be from

Hamadan, Iran.

DEBUNKING DEBUNKERS

By John Beckjord

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PROFESSOR KAREL SIKAN
I WANT TOTELL YOUR KNOW ABOUT U.F.O.
WICH CAME TO EARTH AND STAIED IN
HAMADAN THAT THEY WERE TALKING TO
EACH OTHER AND I HAVE GOT SOME
FORMOLA P.ANDS. THAT I CAN NOT UNDE-
RATSTAND THEM SO I LIKE TO TELL TOY
KNOW ABOUT THIS SUBJECT IF YOU WANT TO
HAVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IT THIS IS
MY ADRESS MR MAHMOD NADERI KHOMEINI
SQUAR ARZAN SHOP HAMADAN IRAN

This was routed to me because I am supposed to be the local expert on UFO's and Flying Saucers at the Johnson Space Center, as co-author of a book "UFO's--A Scientific Debate," Cornell University Press, 1972. Of course, I would like to reply with a letter to Mr. Mahmud Naderi saying that we would be glad to publicize his close encounter of the third kind if he would get the US hostages released.

I doubt that this would work. Mr. Naderi lives on Khomeini Squar, and probably backs the Ayatollah all the way. Anyway, the Iranian censors would scarcely let my letter get through. On the other hand, the former Shah seems to be at death's door. (At this printing the Shah's death is a matter of record -the Editor) If he dies, the Iranians may need an excuse to free the hostages. What better excuse than a UFO?

The most dispiriting feature of the TELEX, however, is the salutation "Dear Sir Professor Karel Sikan." Mr. Naderi doesn't want me; he wants Carl Sagan, co-author of "UFO's--A Scientific Debate," Professor of Space Sciences at Cornell University, Mr. Naderi assumed that his TELEX link to JSC would reach Professor Karel Sikan here. I wish that I were Karel Siakn, and have sent the TELEX to Cornell.

Thorton Page

A phrase familiar to most ufologists is "It can't be, therefore it isn't." I here wish to add the CSICOP (Committee for Scientific Inquiry into Claims of the Paranormal) corollary, which is "I say it is solved, therefore it is." A second corollary, also often uttered by CSICOP members, and particularly those belonging to the Sub-Committee on UFOs, is: "I say it is explained, therefore it is." I bring this up after having some very interesting contacts with members of the CSICOP's Sub-Committee on UFOs and after having read their journal, the *Skeptical Inquirer*, a very interesting publication that is just beginning to show more sides than just the skeptical one, to its credit.

Several recent examples of these CSICOP corollaries can be found in the pronouncements of Robert Sheaffer, A science writer, and a prominent member of CSICOP's Sub-Committee on UFOs. I had heard much from him and other CSICOP members about so-called "well-explained sightings", and one of the most famous of these was the "explaining" of Jimmy Carter's 1969 UFO sighting in Georgia. Eventually, Sheaffer sent me a copy of a 1977 article from the *Humanist* that was the basis for all the rebounding claims that the sighting was explained. It seemed that Carter and ten others were at a club meeting and they all saw together a bright object, "as bright as the moon", which was also reported to have advanced and receded several times. Sheaffer looked up some astronomical information and determined that-ahall-Venus, "the Mother of UFOs", was in the sky at the time, in the same general direction as the sighting. Conclusion: it was *therefore* Venus that they all saw. Ignored is Carter's comment that the object was "self-luminous" and "bright as the moon". Sheaffer says that Venus is *not* as bright as the moon (really - Wow!), as if this was some kind of proof of error. Ignored in the rush to explain away is the obvious - if the object was as bright as the moon, and if the moon is far brighter than Venus, then the object was of course not Venus. Sheaffer also brilliantly points out that (gee, Bob) Venus doesn't move, or advance or recede. But this is explained away by saying that "...but descriptions like these are typical of misidentifications of a bright planet".

But the most interesting part of all this is that Sheaffer totally ignores Carter's navy background and training. Carter went to the US Naval Academy at Annapolis*, where he took not only navigation courses, which require the routine "shooting" of stars for navigational fixes, but also astronomy, where the cadets were taught to identify stars, including, of course, Venus. Carter served as a *line officer* on three battleships and several subs for over seven years. As such, he routinely had to shoot navigational fixes from

DON'T FORGET THOSE ADDRESS CHANGES

stars at night. Does anyone really feel that even after sixteen years had gone by since his discharge, that this ex-naval officer, this navigator, would mistake Venus, a star he probably "shot" hundreds of times, for a UFO that was as bright as the moon and which showed movement in the sky?

*where he graduated in the top 50 of his class of over 800.

Sheaffer could have said that there might have been some possibility that Carter might have made an error. But no, even though his Committee constantly says that "one cannot prove a negative", he plunges ahead in the *Humanist* (July 1977) and says such things as "...Carter's widely reported 'UFO Sighting' was in fact a misidentification of the planet Venus". Carter is said to have made "errors in observation". (I.e., Carter reported things that don't jibe with Venus.) No one has been able to ask Jimmy Carter directly if he did or did not notice that Venus was also in the sky at the time, and whether or not he might have made an error. As a result, Sheaffer's "explanation" has stood unchallenged for several years, until it has entered the folklore of UFOs. In the recent issue of the *Skeptical Inquirer*, in a book review (summer 1980) of a ufo book by Bondarchuk, astronomer John Kenny (a new Menzel?) smugly refer to "...well-explained sightings, such as President Carter's spotting of Venus and the flap over the Japanese shrimp(sic)-boats off the coast of New Zealand..." as if these were in fact "well-explained". In fact, explanations have been offered, simply because horns are blown and drums are beaten on their behalf. In fact, the alleged "shrimp-boat" (actually squid-boat) "explanation" in regard to the New Zealand film of possible UFO also doesn't seem to hold up. By March 1980, when I visited Bruce Maccabee, one of the foremost investigators into this sighting, I heard Phil Klass admit that the light wasn't Venus, and I heard Sheaffer concur. This so-called "well-explained" sighting has recently become less "well-explained" (or un-explained) as a result of Dr. Maccabee's June 1980 article in *Applied Optics* where he points out that the course and speed of the plane (215 knots) would have required that a squid boat be very speedy indeed to keep up, and to also stay on the right side at all times, even though several radical course changes took place. Not only that, but Maccabee has pointed out to me in private conversations that these boats turn off their lights when they are moving, even if one was down there at the time of the filming. Stationary, and lit, such a boat would not have been able to have kept pace with the plane. Thus, while Venus and/or a squid-boat are possibilities, they in no way offer a condition that justifies the label of "well-explained".

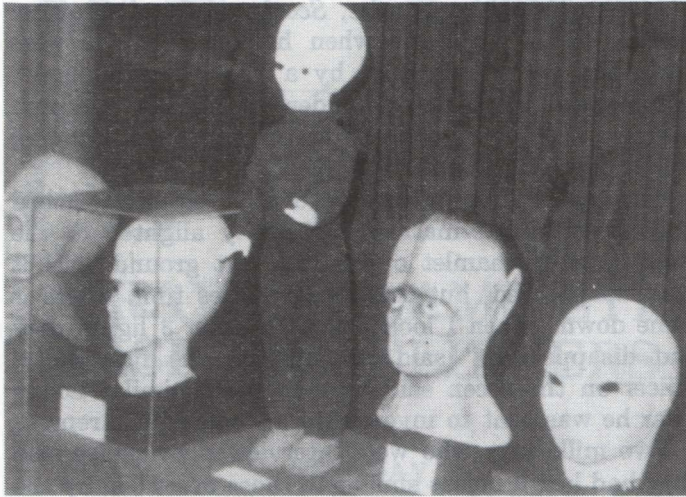
This brings me to my major point - too often I read about the large numbers of UFOs that are flitting about. Lecturers casually toss out figures that claim that 90% of all UFOs are actually IFOs. It seems that this is due to several factors both deplorable: 1) skeptics speak out loudly and say that various

sightings are "solved" or "explained". Little effort is made to counter this impression, and soon, via inertia, we all start believing the counter claim. (E.g., note Jerome Clark in *FATE*, Aug. 1980, page 110.) 2) then, linked with this inertia, many investigators tend to ignore data that interferes with their assumptions that a certain sighting is readily explainable by some commonplace event. Vlz., Venus is in the sky, ergo the witness saw Venus, and never mind the report that says that the object moved about or that it blinked, or was a different color. Or - because an advertising plane was in the sky that night, the object is labeled an IFO, even though the time was wrong by 30 minutes, or even though the witness has seen advertising planes before and says that it was *not* an advertising plane.

In short, I think that we are too ready to accept the strident counter-claims of the skeptics and we are also too ready to put down the statements of witnesses when they are at variance with what we think the cause of the report of a sighting might be. True, errors are made, and true, IFOs do exist - but are we not perhaps, in our arrogance as investigators all too ready to discount the details that witnesses provide us with, in our rush to show that we are not easily fooled? Who then are we really fooling? My recommendation for the skeptics like Sheaffer, Klass and Oberg is that words like "maybe", "possibly", and "probably" are easier words to live with in regard to supposed "explanations" and "solved cases," and for UFO investigators I feel that perhaps we ought not to rush so quickly into doubting the perceptions of our fellow man, just so we will seem not easily fooled or taken in. By slowing down a bit more, and listening a bit more carefully, perhaps we run the risk of being over-gullible, and the percentage of unexplaineds will rise, but we will gain the benefit of being more open to what witnesses believe they have seen, and the result may be that we will learn more about patterns and UFO behavior than we might have otherwise. Let us not be in a rush to pretend we are ex-Blue Book staffers and Condon Report supporters. Those efforts provided UFOlogists with little that cast any real light on the true nature of UFOs. By being a little more open, and not so quick to accept easy answers, we may look just a bit more gullible, but we also stand a better chance to pick up that odd piece of data that links with another, and another, until we have something that clicks.

"UFO's '79"

This issue of the *BULLETIN* features several photos taken at the "UFO's '79" Symposium in San Diego, California. Most are candid shots taken with Mrs. Lorenzen's Hanimex Mini 218 camera so we apologize for photo make-up and quality. Shown above is part of APRO's display at the Symposium, which



are artists' interpretations of UFO occupants. The standing figure is Artist Al LaVigne's conception of the small occupants of the Travis Walton Case [see APRO BULLETINS November 1975, and February 1976 issues]. Mr. Allen Benz, APRO's Librarian, set up and supervised APRO's display.



Mr. Allen Benz, APRO's librarian, is shown above with Ernest Bellantoni, an APRO member from San Diego.

Allen is an indefatigable worker, and was mentioned on Page Five of the July, 1979, Bulletin.



Mr. Harold Lebelson, UFO editor for OMNI Magazine and Field Investigator for APRO in New York City, is shown during a chat with APRO's Research Director, Dr. James Harder. Mr. Lebelson is on the left of the picture. (Col. 1).



We are pleased to present Carol Kovacs, APRO Field Investigator of Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzen first met Carol in Fort Smith, Arkansas, at the Symposium organized and hosted by Bill Pitts in 1975. She joined APRO shortly thereafter and she has been an avid APRO supporter and worker ever since.



Field Investigator Raymond Jordan of Flagstaff, Arizona, and the Reverend G. Neal Hearn of Dallas, Texas, are shown above with Mrs. Lorenzen, APRO's Secretary/Treasurer at the "UFO's '79" Symposium in San Diego.

**MORE—
SEE NEXT PAGE**



From left to right: APRO member Al Martino of Chicago is shown with Mr. Stanton T. Friedman, APRO Field Investigator and lecturer and Mrs. Lorenzen. The light at the top of Mr. Friedman's head is not a halo OR a UFO -- its a film flaw. Sorry!

PRESS REPORTS

By Joe and Doris Graziano

March [date?], 1980 - King City, Missouri. Kermit and Sally Wells were relaxed in their living room watching television when, suddenly, the entire house seemed to be illuminated. A look out the window revealed a shining mass of light in the sky which appeared from the ground to be at least 3 feet square. The mass changed colors from a whitish tinge to a brilliant orange.

Seeing the object starting to disappear, the Wells' got in their pick-up and drove down the blacktop to try to relocate it, without success. While they were out they decided to check some calves that were on a lot about a mile from the house. The animals were "running back and forth in the lot like they were scared of something," reported Mr. Wells.

Returning to their home, the Wells' made telephone calls to neighbors who concurred that they had seen "something." Neighbors to the south told of a greenish glowing "thing" hovering over their outbuildings. Mrs. Cloyd Lebow and her son, Rick, saw the illumination and were so startled that they drove into town. There were also reports of vapor lights in yards going out due to the brightness of the light, and several agreed that a loud explosion-type sound was heard as the light sped out of sight.

About 10:30 p.m., the Wells' were awakened by friends to learn that an old farm house, where Mr. Wells and his brother had grown-up, burned to the ground. Whether there was any connection with this and the other incident is not known.

March 30, 1980 - Dundee, Scotland. A police officer was asleep in his home when he and his wife were awakened about 4:55 a.m. by a "hollow metal hum" which grew increasingly louder. From his bedroom window, he saw 4 "glows" in the northwest moving slowly in a diamond formation.

After several minutes one of the lights detached itself from the formation and slowly alighted in the vicinity of the hamlet of Benvie. "At ground level it just disappeared, but there were noises from where it came down. When I looked for the other 3 lights they had disappeared," said the officer. The first police officer on the scene said he also heard similar noises after he was sent to investigate his colleague's report.

Two milk boys who were interviewed by police said they had heard noises similar to those described by the off-duty policemen. A spokesman for R.A.F. Leuchars confirmed that there was no air traffic in the area at the time.

April 18, 1980 - Anchorage, Alaska. The FAA, state and local police received as many as 50 calls reporting a bright, lighted object over south Anchorage. Bill Schofield, FAA Duty Officer, claims it was an airplane towing a lighted banner, but many of the witnesses disagreed.

Doris Coles described the object as round and said it tilted in different directions. Coles' son, Don, said he saw the airplanes towing the banner earlier in the week and it was not the same thing as he saw this time. Mrs. Coles, who viewed the objects through binoculars, also said that lights were visible inside and that there was no noise or sound.

Another resident said that he and a group of friends saw an object hover 30 feet off the ground over Dimond Estates mobile home park. He said that the object had "lights that kept spinning around," and also reported hearing no sound.

Chris Prehn, who also saw the object over Dimond Estates, described it as round with lights and making a "light moaning noise." Prehn had also seen the plane towing the banner and claims this was different. "It wasn't an airplane. It was just hovering," he said.

April 23, 1980 - Onalaska, Washington. In the northeast corner of a 30 acre hay field on the ranch of Adolf Balsemer are nine similar rings of dark-colored grass. They are all perfect circles between 20 and 22 feet in diameter.

"I've lived in Lewis County all my life and I've never seen rings like that before last year," said Balsemer. "Last year there were some similar circles in a different area, and now their traces are gone," he added.

The ranch is located on the outskirts of Mt. Rainier where an outbreak of UFO sightings started in 1947.

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